

## Message Text

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TO CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI MI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 177427

FOR SENIOR CIVIL COORDINATOR

FOLLOWING REPEATS VIENTIANE 4926 ACTION SECSTATE

INFO BANGKOK GENEVA USUN HONG KONG JULY 21ST

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4926

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, VS

SUBJ: DEPARTURE OF FOREIGNERS FROM SVN; UNHCR ACTIVITIES

REF: A. STATE 169086 (NOTAL)

B. VIENTIANE 4873 (NOTAL)

C. VIENTIANE 4685

1. ALEXANDRE CASELLA OF UNHCR CALLED AT EMBASSY AGAIN  
JULY 21 AND PROVIDED AT LEAST PROVISIONAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  
CONTAINED REF A.

2. PAYMENT REQUIRED OF PASSENGERS DEPARTING SAIGON: AS  
RODILL (NEWSDAY), FRANJOLA (AP), VOGLE (UPI) AND OTHERS HAVE  
TOLD US, PRG DEFINITELY DESCRIBES THE \$120 FEE AS A TRANS-  
PORTATION CHARGE. HOWEVER, NEITHER UNHCR NOR RAL RECEIVES  
IT. CASELLA SAYS HE THINKS PRG OPTIC IS THAT IT WOULD BE  
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"UNJUST" FOR ANYONE TO TRAVEL ANYWHERE FREE (RAL FARE

BETWEEN

VIENTIANE AND SAIGON WAS \$75); ALSO, OF COURSE, PRG IS SHORT OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE. HOWEVER, CASELLA STRONGLY OBJECTS ON PRINCIPLE TO ASSOCIATION OF THIS SO-CALLED TRANSPORTATION CHARGE WITH UNHCR FLIGHTS; HE WOULDN'T MIND SO MUCH IF CHARGE WERE DESCRIBED AS DEPARTURE TAX, ADMINISTRATIVE FEE, "OR EVEN RANSOM." THIS IS ONE OF NUMEROUS ISSUES HE INTENDS TO RAISE WITH PRG WHEN HE FINALLY GETS TO SAIGON. (HE HAS NOT BEEN THERE YET EVEN AS A FLIGHT-CONVEYER, CONTRARY TO SPECULATION IN REF B. IT TOOK SOME DOING, HE SAYS, EVEN TO GET HIS NAME ON LIST OF APPROVED CONVEYERS BECAUSE OF HIS STATUS AS DIRECTOR-DESIGNATE OF UNHCR SAIGON OFFICE.) CASELLA ADDS THAT HE DELIBERATELY REFRAINED FROM RAISING ISSUE OF \$120 TRANSPORTATION CHARGE IN HANOI BECAUSE DRV WOULD HAVE REALIZED WITH EMBARRASSMENT THAT PRG WAS WRONG TO CHARGE IT; SOME SIMPLE POINT LIKE THIS, CASELLA FEARS, COULD FURTHER COMPLICATE UNHCR AIRLIFT.

3. CASELLA EXPRESSED CERTAINTY, HOWEVER, THAT NO RPT NO AMERICAN HAD BEEN PREVENTED FROM DEPARTING SAIGON, OR DELAYED IN DOING SO, BECAUSE OF INABILITY TO PAY THE CHARGE (WITNESS RODILL, WHO FINALLY GOT OUT BY SIGNING A SORT OF PROMISSORY NOTE WHICH HE OF COURSE HAS NO INTENTION OF HONORING). CASELLA SEES NO RPT NO POINT IN FAMILIES' ATTEMPTING TO SEND MONEY TO AMCITS IN SVN FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND WE CONCUR AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING. (DEPT MIGHT, HOWEVER, WISH TO BEGIN EXPLORING FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL ISSUE WITH TREASURY AT THIS TIME AS A CONTINGENCY.)

4. RESUMPTION OF FLIGHTS.  
NO CHANGE IN SITUATION AS REPORTED REF B. UNHCR GOT ANOTHER CANCELLATION THROUGH DRV EMBASSY VIENTIANE FOR PROPOSED JULY 18 FLIGHT. IT APPLIED FOR FLIGHTS JULY 20 AND 21 ABUT GOT TURN-DOWN FOR JULY 20 FROM TAN SON NHUT TOWER (BACK IN COMMO WITH WATTAY) AND ON OWN INITIATIVE WHEN CANCELLED REQUEST FOR JULY 21. UNHCR CURRENTLY HAS NO MEDICINES OR OTHER SUPPLIES TO DELIVER FROM VIENTIANE, SO PRIMARY OFFICIAL REASON FOR FLIGHTS HAS TEMPORARILY EVAPORATED. CASELLA SPECULATES  
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THAT PRG MAY NOT WANT FOREIGN AIRCRAFT OPERATING INTO SAIGON BECAUSE OF REPORTED HEAVY TRAVEL IN AND OUT BY VIP'S FROM HANOI. IN ANY EVENT, UNHCR PLANS TO STAND DOWN FOR A FEW DAYS SO AS NOT TO PRESSURE PRG. DARRYL HAN IS EXPECTED BACK FROM HANOI NEXT DAY OR TWO AND MAY HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION.

5. REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE FROM U.S. AND ELSEWHERE:

CASELLA AND RIZVI ARE PLANNING TO BRING ALL POTENTIAL REPATRIATES PRE-  
FERABLY DEMONSTRATION-LEADERS, FROM  
GUAM TO VIENTIANE VIA BANGKOK IN NEXT WEEK OR SO. PURPOSE  
WOULD BE TO ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE DRV EMBASSY VIENTIANE  
OF REPATRIATES' SINCERITY DESPITE TACTICS WHICH DRV/PRG  
PROFESS TO REGARD AS EVIDENCE OF BAD FAITH (REF B).

6. PRG PROPAGANDA VERSUS INACTION ON REPATRIATION:  
CASELLA NOW SAYS UNHCR IN HANOI HAS MADE ROUGHLY SAME  
ARGUMENT WE URGED LAST WEEK (REF B, PARA 9): TONE  
DOWN PROPAGANDA, SPEED UP PROCESSING, OR BOTH.  
CASELLA EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DELAY IN REPATRIATION, WHICH HE  
AGREES IS ENTIRELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO PRG, WOULD NOT  
BECOME MAJOR BILATERAL ISSUE BETWEEN USG AND PRG OR  
BETWEEN USG AND UNHCR. HE CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT  
PRESSURE ON PRG WILL HAVE EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE OF THE  
EFFECT INTENDED AND NOTES THAT, WHATEVER RADIO SAIGON  
MAY SAY, THERE ARE MANY OTHER PROBLEMS HIGHER ON LIST  
OF PRG PRIORITIES THAN REPATRIATION. CASELLA BELIEVES FACT  
THAT BRINTON AND URICH CAME OUT OF SAIGON ON JULY 4 WAS  
DEFINITE PRG GESTURE TO USG.

7. HONG KONG AS TRANSIT POINT: CASELLA SAYS JAEGER  
OBTAINED HMG AND HKG PERMISSION FOR TRANSIT OF VIET-  
NAMESE REPATRIATES COMING FROM GUAM AND ELSEWHERE AND OF  
SOUTH KOREANS, TAIWAN CHINESE AND OTHER "UNDESIRABLES"  
WHO MAY EVENTUALLY DEPART SAIGON (REF C, PARA 7). THOSE  
BOUND FOR SEOULGN TAIPEI OR ELSEWHERE WOULD SIMPLY REMAIN  
IN TRANSIT LOUNGE AT KAI TAK PENDING FIRST COMMERCIAL  
FLIGHT TO FINAL DESTINATION. HOWEVER, HONG KONG TRANSIT  
WOULD NOT COME INTO PLAY UNTIL SUCH TIME AS UNHCR HAS  
FINNAIR DC-9 OR OTHER AIRCRAFT FOR FLIGHTS BETWEEN HONG  
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KONG AND SAIGON.

8. CASELLA'S PLANS: HE EXPECTS TO LEAVE VIENTIANE ON  
OR ABOUT JULY 23 TO MEET RIZVI IN BANGKOK AND WORK ON  
SCHEME TO BRING THE TWO VIETNAMESE FROM GUAM (PARA 5,  
ABOVE). AFTER THAT HE THINKS HE MAY RETURN TO GENEVA;  
HE SEES LITTLE UTILITY IN REMAINING IN AREA UNTIL HE  
CAN OPEN SAIGON OFFICE, AND HE DOUBTS THAT WILL BE  
BEFORE SEPTEMBER.

CHAPMAN

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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